

EPA believes that in addition to recycling Superfund sites, redeveloping Brownfields is key to a healthy environment and economic future, the future, mirroring national interest in sustainable growth and creative reuse solutions. An understanding of our Brownfields program will encourage more stakeholders get involved in its widespread redevelopment opportunities. With this in mind, the following pages will take you step by step through this successful initiative and its diverse offerings. We look forward to forging even more state and local partnerships to transform once desolate areas into productive, vital assets for communities across Pennsylvania.

### RECAPTURING THE POTENTIAL

Brownfields are a blight to urban, suburban and rural areas, dragging down property values and fostering a sense of hopelessness in affected communities across the nation. Breaking this cycle means addressing not only environmental issues but economic ones as well. EPA offers some nontraditional approaches to environmental programs to address both cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields. Communities across the country have successfully turned once desolate eyesores into ballparks, eco-industrial parks, shopping centers, manufacturing facilities, and other diverse assets to the community.

### WHAT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE CAN EPA PROVIDE?

#### FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Through the Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot program, EPA awards cooperative agreements up to \$200,000 to municipalities to fund pre-cleanup activities. This work can include the following:

- developing an inventory of brownfields properties
- environmental assessments
- cleanup planning and design
- studies regarding legal, fiscal, economic, and other issues as long as they are necessary to plan and direct an assessment or cleanup action



Brownfields are abandoned, industrial areas that hinder redevelopment.

### WHAT IS THE BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS?

#### STEP 1

Experts determine if environmental contamination is present, collecting background information to learn about past practices and current conditions.

#### STEP 2

If it is determined hazardous substances may exist, environmental sampling is conducted to identify pollutants and contamination levels.

#### STEP 3

Once the nature and extent of contamination are known, cleanup and redevelopment plans can then be developed and ultimately implemented.



Brownfields exist in urban, suburban and rural areas across Pennsylvania.

EPA considers this funding “seed money” to jumpstart redevelopment. To date, EPA has funded 307 of these pilots nationwide and expects to select up to 40 new pilots by April 2000. Since EPA has met its commitment of awarding pilots to over 300 communities nationwide, the focus will now be on awarding supplemental funding to existing pilots. We’ve awarded 14 assessment pilots in Pennsylvania totaling \$3,500,000: (congressional district in parentheses)

- Central City Borough (12)
- Bucks County (8)
- Delaware County (1)
- Duquesne (18)
- Ford City (12)
- Johnstown (12)
- Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties (10/11)
- Mifflin County (9)
- Montgomery County (13)
- Neville Township (18)
- Northampton and Lehigh Counties (15)
- Philadelphia (1,2,3)
- Pittsburgh (18)
- Reading (19)

### OTHER FUNDING FOR BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENTS

Under the Targeted Brownfields Assessment program, EPA provides funding and/or technical assistance for environmental assessments at brownfields properties. EPA may use these funds for federal-lead site assessment activities, or for site assessments conducted by States or Tribes under existing cooperative agreements with EPA.

When EPA takes the lead for a targeted assessment—*at no cost to the community*—it assesses the property to determine the nature and extent of the contamination. The community receives a background report and the results of any sampling conducted during the assessment. Equipped with this valuable information, communities can formulate appropriate redevelopment plans which could include the creation of commercial, industrial, recreation, or conservation areas.

### FUNDS FOR CLEANING UP BROWNFIELDS

Through the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) Pilot program, EPA awards cooperative agreements up to \$500,000 to recipients of Brownfields Assessment Demonstration pilots. The purpose of the BCRLF pilots is to make loans to facilitate the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields properties. A revolving loan fund charges

interest on the loans, generally at a low rate, and 'revolves' as it uses loan repayments (principal, plus interest and fees) to make new loans for the same authorized purposes. These funds are for cleanup activities only. To date, EPA has funded 68 BCRLF pilots nationwide and expects to select up to 70 new pilots by May 2000. The two Pennsylvania pilots, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, total \$700,000.

### FUNDS FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB TRAINING

Through the Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot program, EPA awards cooperative agreements up to \$200,000 to colleges, universities, community job training organizations, nonprofit training centers, states, counties, and municipalities. The job training pilots, each located within or near a Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot, are designed to train residents in communities impacted by brownfields. These skills can then be used for future employment in the environmental field, including cleanups employing an alternative or innovative technology. To date, EPA has funded 21 of these pilots nationwide and expects to select up to 10 new pilots by May 2000. There are two job training pilots in Pennsylvania totaling \$400,000:

- Bucks County Community College
- Impact Services, Inc., Philadelphia

### TECHNICAL TOOLS AND ASSISTANCE

EPA provides expert advice on cost effective solutions and innovative technologies available for environmental assessment and cleanup.

### MANAGING LIABILITY RISKS

EPA works with States and localities to develop and issue guidance that will clarify the liability of prospective purchasers, lenders, property owners, and others regarding their association with and activities at a site.



Poseiden Pool Brownfield, Wright Township: As part of the Brownfield Assessment Program, EPA sampled this site.



Nine Mile Run Brownfield, Pittsburgh: With EPA funding, Pittsburgh assessed this slag dump.



Nine Mile Run Brownfield: Today, slated for potential residential reuse.





Liberty Lands Brownfield, Philadelphia: Before the transformation...



Liberty Lands Brownfield, Philadelphia



Liberty Lands Brownfield: Planting trees to create a community greenspace.

## OTHER RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE

Through the Brownfields Initiatives, communities can leverage a myriad of public and private sources of capital and technical support that can ensure successful redevelopment. Check out the *Federal Partnership Resource Guide*, which identifies a myriad of federally-sponsored community development resources and how to access them. This guide can be found online at [www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm).

## EPA PURSUES ITS REDEVELOPMENT GOALS BY FOCUSING ON THE 'FOUR P'S'

### PILOTS:

Involving local government and interested stakeholders in the process of accurately determining intended future use of properties;

### PARTNERSHIPS:

Coordinating EPA Region III's remedy selection by involving others with expertise and resources to support the reuse of sites once they've been cleaned up;

### POLICY REFINEMENTS:

Ensuring EPA staff and others have the tools necessary to evaluate reuse considerations into the Superfund response process.

### PROMOTION:

Ensuring redevelopment successes and creative ideas are effectively communicated.